

Application Number 10/053,173
Amendment dated November 23, 2004
Responsive to Office Action mailed August 24, 2004

(EDM) processes. For this reason, Applicants hypothesized that static charge within the mold cavity was dissipating between the stamper and the mirror block causing sparks that would systematically erode the mirror block in a manner similar to EDM processes. See Applicants' specification page 7, lines 7-12. Applicants' claim feature of the substantially non-resistive path to ground was specifically introduced to molds to address the problem that Applicants' identified in such molds, which do not include a battery source like the molds of Grisell. None of the applied primary references even recognize the existence of problematic static charge in the mold cavity, nor the dissipation of such charge between the stamper and the mirror block, which can reduce the useful life of the stamper.

Accordingly, without access to Applicants' disclosure, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have even recognized that problematic static charge may be present in the molds of Holmes, Van Hout, Kerfeld, or Inaba. Moreover, without a recognition of the existence of such problematic static charge, it is totally unclear why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to address the problem, much less look to Grisell for a solution.

In short, the amended claims structurally distinguish the references applied by the Examiner. Moreover, the prior art lacks motivation that would have led a person of ordinary skill in the art to address the problem of static charge in the molds of Holmes, Van Hout, Kerfeld, or Inaba, much less turn to Grisell for a solution. Specifically, Applicants submit that the teaching of Grisell is irrelevant to Holmes, Van Hout, Kerfeld, or Inaba insofar as Grisell specifically introduces charge into the molding process via a battery source. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the molds of Holmes, Van Hout, Kerfeld, or Inaba with the teaching of Grisell, as the molds of Holmes, Van Hout, Kerfeld, or Inaba do not include a battery source.

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any *VX*

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additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 09-0069. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

11/23/04

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